



**Terry Tamminen**  
*Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection*

# State Water Resources Control Board

---

## Division of Water Quality

1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814 ♦ (916) 341-5585  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, California 95812-0100  
FAX (916) 341-5470 ♦ Internet Address: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>



**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
*Governor*

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### TO RECEIVE COMMENT ON THE REVISED DRAFT STATEWIDE PROGRAM EIR COVERING GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR BIOSOLIDS LAND APPLICATION

Tuesday, March 2, 2004 - 10:00 a.m.\*  
Coastal Hearing Room – Second Floor  
Joe Serna Jr./Cal/EPA Building  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, California

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is proposing to adopt a General Order (GO) for General Waste Discharge Requirements for Biosolids Land Application for beneficial use in agricultural, silvicultural, horticultural, and reclamation activities. Biosolids are sewage sludge that has been treated, tested, and shown to be capable of beneficial use as a soil amendment. The GO would establish a notification and permit review process applicable to all persons and public entities intending to apply biosolids to land in California for the purposes stated above. The GO would establish prohibitions, discharge and application specifications, transportation and storage requirements, and general procedures and provisions to which all land appliers would be required to adhere.

The Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) was previously certified in 2000. Litigation brought against the SWRCB by Kern County and the Central Delta Water Agency after approval of the GO has resulted in the revision of the original PEIR. The court generally found the 2000 PEIR to be adequate, but concluded that two of the project alternatives were dismissed from detailed analysis without sufficient grounds. The court ordered decertification of the PEIR and set aside the approval of the GO pending revision and recertification of the PEIR with additional analyses of the two alternatives.

The two additional alternatives now analyzed in detail are: (1) the Class A Only Alternative; and (2) the Food Crop Limitation Alternative. Class A biosolids are treated through a variety of methods to achieve pathogen reduction. The Food Crop Limitation Alternative restricts the application of all biosolids (including Class A) to specified crops.

---

\* This issue may not be heard immediately at 10:00 a.m., but may be delayed due to consideration of an item(s) of a shorter duration. Chapter 14 of the revised Draft PEIR contains the additional alternative analysis. New information has become available since certification of the original PEIR has been added. Other sections have been updated to reflect changes in the regulatory environment since the previous certification.

*California Environmental Protection Agency*

---

The SWRCB will hold a public hearing on March 2, 2004 to receive comments on the additional analyses of the two alternatives in the revised Draft PEIR. Changes made in the 2000 PEIR are identified in the revised Draft and comments should be limited to the new and revised sections. The SWRCB will consider certification of the revised PEIR at a future meeting.

Directions to the Joe Serna Jr. Cal/EPA Headquarters Building are available at [www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm](http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm). All visitors are required to sign in and receive a badge prior to attending any meeting located at the Joe Serna Jr. Cal/EPA Headquarters Building. The Visitor and Environmental Services Center is located just inside and to the left of the Cal/EPA Building's public entrance. Valid picture identification may be required due to the security level; therefore, please allow up to 15 minutes for this process. The facility is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Mr. Adrian Perez at (916) 341-5880 at least five working days prior to the meeting date. TTY users may contact the California Relay service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

The public review and comment period for the revised Draft PEIR is January 30 to March 15, 2004. The revised Draft PEIR is available for viewing and downloading at [www.swrcb.ca.gov](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov).

Comments may be submitted to:

Mr. Wayne Verrill  
Management Practices Support Unit  
Division of Water Quality  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P. O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Comments may also be submitted at the hearing; by fax at (916) 341-5470; or by e-mail to [verrw@swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:verrw@swrcb.ca.gov). Written comments must be received or postmarked on or before March 15, 2004. Early submittal of comments is encouraged.

Questions regarding this hearing should be directed to Wayne Verrill at (916) 341-5585.

  
Debbie Irvin  
Clerk to the Board

Date: January 29, 2004